THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): No, Sir.

Small cars

914. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI KISHOR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only existing manufacturers of two wheelers and four wheelers can produce new automobiles in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering to give permission for the manufacture of small car Citron to Escorts which will be in direct competition with the Government owned small car Maruti; and

(c) how many passenger cars are envisaged to be manufactured in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The application of M/s. Escorts Ltd., for grant of an industrial licence for the manufacture of small passenger cars is under consideration and a final decision is yet to be taken.

(c) 6.10 lacs.

Industrial sheds at Okhla

915. SHRI (MOLANA) ASRARUL HAQ: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that 40 industrial sheds at Okhla have been allotted directly to entrepreneurs during the last one year without constituting any committee of experts from outside as per practice;

(b) whether any sheds were allotted to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per policy; and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that plots are yet to be allotted and whether any plots of the same have been reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As reported by Delhi Administration, twenty two sheds were allotted to the entrepreneurs in high technology areas such as Electronics including software, industrial process control equipments etc. Preference was also given to non-resident Indians whose proposals involved import of advanced technology and foreign collaboration with equity participation. No other condition or reservation except level of technology was kept as the criteria for allotment approved by the Delhi Administration. Since adequate expertise was available in the department and since the number of applications was small, it was not found necessary to coopt outside experts.

(b) No reservation is required to be made for allotment of sheds to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and as such in the advertisement for allotment of these sheds no such condition was prescribed. Allotment of sheds was made on the basis of criteria referred to in reply to part (a) of the Question.

(c) Delhi Administration has further reported that as per the policy approved by them, high technology has been considered the only criteria for proposed allotment of plots at Okhla and no other reservation or condition has been kept.